

Presents Check for More Than \$10,000 in back payments to Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran

Huntington Station, NY—Today, Rep. Steve Israel (D-Huntington) presented Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran Kyle Foth with a check for \$10,780 from the Veterans Administration (VA) in back payments related to injuries he suffered during his deployment. With the presentation of this check, Rep. Israel has now secured more than \$5 million in retroactive benefits for veterans on Long Island.

“Our veterans are America’s finest and put their lives on the line to defend our nation,” said Rep. Israel. “I am honored to present Kyle Foth with the money he deserves for his service and commitment to our country. He is a fine young man who embodies the meaning of bravery and dedication.”

Mr. Foth served as tanker in Operation Iraqi Freedom and returned home from deployment in 2007. After noticing some changes, he contacted the VA and requested benefits. He did not receive his benefits and contacted Rep. Israel’s office in December 2011 to ask for help. Within 30 days of reaching out to the VA on Mr. Foth’s behalf, Rep. Israel’s office was able to get the VA to grant his benefits, which were presented via check today.

“I’d like to thank Congressman Steve Israel for the work he has done, not only on my behalf, but also for so many Long Island veterans,” said Mr. Foth. “Before he intervened in my case, I felt as if my country had forgotten about me. It is important to know that the people we fight for support us, and that the promises that are made to us before deployment are kept when we get home.”

After the check presentation, Rep. Israel spoke of the \$5 million in retroactive benefits he has been able to secure for veterans during his tenure in Congress.

“The proudest moments of my career have been those in which I am able to secure medals or benefits for veterans who rightfully deserve them. I will continue to fight to make sure that our veterans receive their medals and benefits, but I hope in the future they are able to receive

them without having to wait for them or jump through hoops to get them.”

Bruce Brenner, Post Commander, Tom Ronayne, Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency, and Ralph Panetta, World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient, also thanked the Congressman for his commitment to veterans.

“I want to thank Congressman Israel for his unwavering support for Long Island’s veterans,” said Mr. Panetta. “He has been our strongest advocate and does everything he can to ensure that we receive the benefits we deserve.”